

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1 to 5 (inclusive), 7 and 12, without prejudice.

Replace the remaining claims currently on file with the clean version of the following claims:

Replace claim 6 with:

A2 2.6 B2 > 6. A shear bolt for joining coupling members comprising:
an elongate core element having a first portion with an inwardly bowed profile forming a shear area of a given shear strength, a second portion on each side of said first portion forming a shoulder of larger diameter than said first portion and adapted to provide a pre-set spacing between opposed coupling members at least in the vicinity of said shear bolt, and a third portion extending from each of said shoulders adapted to receive a fastening member to secure said core element with said coupling members.

Replace claim 8 with:

A3 2.6 B2 > 8. The shear bolt of claim 6 wherein said third portion includes opposed planar surfaces adjacent said second portion for slideably engaging a coupling member transversely thereto in a close clearance fit to avoid rotation of said core element during installation and removal of said fastening member.

Replace claim 9 with:

A4 2.6 B2 > 9. The shear bolt of claims 6 or 8 further including a washer element having an opening for insertion onto said third portion and adapted to register with a correspondingly shaped recess in a coupling member, wherein the location of said opening in said washer element provides a means of adjusting the spacing of said bolt element from a given radial reference point of said coupling members.

Replace claim 10 with:

Sub B₂ 10. A shear bolt coupling assembly comprising:
first and second coaxially engaged coupling members with respective first and second flanges, each flange having a plurality of radially extending open-ended slots along a perimeter thereof; and,
an elongate shear bolt having a first portion forming a shear area of a given shear strength, a second portion on each side of said first portion forming a shoulder of larger diameter than said first portion for abutting each of said first and second flanges to provide a desired clearance therebetween, and a third portion extending from each of said shoulders adapted to receive a fastening member to secure said shear bolt with said first and second flanges and thereby securely connect said first and second coupling members for transferring a shear force therebetween up to said given shear strength, said third portion including radially opposed planar surfaces adapted to engage said slots in a close clearance fit therewith to avoid rotation of said shear bolt therein.

A5

Replace claim 11 with:

Sub B₂ 11. The assembly of claim 10 wherein said first portion of said shear bolt has an inwardly bowed profile.

A6

Replace claim 13 with:

Sub B₂ 13. The assembly of claims 10 or 11 further including a washer element having an opening for insertion onto said third portion and adapted to register with a correspondingly shaped recess in a respective first or second flange, wherein the location of said opening in said washer element provides a means of adjusting the radial spacing of said shear bolt from a given radial reference point of said first and second coupling members.

A7

Please add the following new claims 14 to 18:

Σα 02> 14. A shear bolt coupling assembly comprising:

a first coupling member with a first radially extending flange having an inside face, an opposed outside face and a plurality of radially extending open-ended slots along a perimeter thereof, each slot having a recessed portion on said outside face;

a second coupling member with a second radially extending flange having an inside face, and an opposed outside face and a plurality of radially extending open-ended slots along a perimeter thereof, each slot having a recessed portion on said outside face, wherein said first and second coupling member are coaxially engaged so as to position said inside faces in a facing relationship;

an elongate shear bolt having a first portion forming a shear area of a given shear strength, a second portion on each side of said first portion forming a shoulder of larger diameter than said first portion for flush engagement with said inside face of each of said first and second flanges to provide a desired clearance therebetween, and a third portion extending from each of said shoulders adapted to receive a fastening assembly to secure said shear bolt in aligned slots in said first and second flanges and thereby securely connect said first and second coupling members for transferring a shear force therebetween up to said given shear strength, said fastening assembly being insertable into a respective recessed portion and including a stop means for preventing said shear bolt from being urged radially out of said aligned slots by centrifugal force, and said shear bolt being removable from said coaxially engaged coupling members without increasing said desired clearance upon disengaging said fastening assemblies from said recessed portions.

15. The assembly of claim 14 wherein said stop means comprises a washer element adapted to register with said recessed portion.

16. The assembly of claim 14 wherein said shear area is formed by a first portion having a radially inwardly curved profile.

17. The assembly of claim 15 wherein said shear area is formed by a first portion having a radially inwardly curved profile.

18. The assembly of claims 14, 15, 16 or 17 wherein said third portion of said shear bolt includes opposed planar surfaces adjacent said second portion for slideably engaging said slot in a close clearance fit to avoid rotation of said shear bolt therein.

A marked-up version of the revised claims is enclosed after the Remarks section on a separate page entitled "Version with markings to show changes made to claims", and a consolidated clean copy of all pending claims is also enclosed thereafter, starting on a page entitled "Clean version of all pending claims", for ease of review for the Examiner.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend figures 1, 3 and 4 as indicated on the enclosed marked-up versions of drawing pages 1/4, 3/4 and 4/4. A clean copy of pages 1/4, 3/4 and 4/4 with the above amendments made to figures 1, 3 and 4 is also enclosed for substitution into the application.